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In der Einleitung erfahren wir, dass das vorliegende Buch eine zweifache Absicht verfolgt, nämlich einerseits zur Beleuchtung und Feststellung der grammatikalischen Formen und dadurch zum Verständnis schwieriger Textstellen beizutragen und andererseits Material zu weiteren Untersuchungen zu liefern. Der erstere Zweck ist ohne Frage vollauf erreicht worden (wobei noch namentlich die Genauigkeit der sinngemässen Interpunktion hervorgehoben sei). Zum zweiten Punkte möchte man wünschen, dass recht bald einmal die Probe aufs Exempel gemacht wird, dass also andere westgermanische, d. h. natürlich vorzugsweise altenglische Dichtungen in ähnlicher Weise gründlichst untersucht werden. Die systematische Vergleichung der Variationstechnik könnte eine wertvolle Handhabe zur Beurteilung der schwierigen Verfasserfragen liefern. Zugleich würde durch ein solches Verfahren das eigentlich Charakteristische an dem Parallelismus im Heliand noch deutlicher in die Erscheinung treten.

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*Althochdeutsches Lesebuch für Anfänger.* Von Joseph Mansion, Professor an der Universität Lüttich. Heidelberg, 1912. Carl Winter's Universitätsbuchhandlung. Paper, 2 M 40. Cloth 3 Mk. × + 173, with two facsimiles.

This little volume appears in Streitberg's Sammlung germanischer Elementar- und Handbücher, III. Reihe: Lesebücher. The author endeavored primarily to furnish his students with a manual which should take into account the unusual difficulties encountered by foreigners in the study of Old High German. For this purpose he has compiled a brief Grammar, including a chapter on Syntax, following in general the plan of the series in which the book appears. Compared with Braune's monumental Old High German Grammar, or also with that of Armitage, this part of the work must be called meager. It is rather on a level with Sweet's well known primers. Yet also Braune did not disdain to compile an Abriss, and for beginners the brevity and lucidness of statement have their advantage.

At the same time, Old High German as well as Gothic will be studied exclusively by students interested in the more purely philological side of our work, and the author could have rendered them an invaluable service by references to Wilmanns's inimitable work. Beginners, for whom the work is professedly written, find in it no light on the meaning of such terms as Umlaut, Lautverschiebung, Grammatischer

Wechsel, etc. A few references to Streitberg's *Urgerm. Grammatik* are tantalizing, in view of the fact that for several years we have been eagerly waiting for the appearance of the promised revised second edition. As I know German students, I make bold to assert that they also would be grateful if authors of Grammars and text editions in our field would consent to be a little less sparing with their help. Might we not with profit emulate the example of Wilmanns in his *German Grammar*, or also of Wright in his "*Grammar of the Gothic Language*" and Armitage in his "*Old High German Grammar*", though these English scholars, Armitage particularly, are possibly inclined to lay undue emphasis upon the comparative side of the work. Our author evidently considers brevity a cardinal virtue, and we must admit that he gives a large amount of information in the short space of less than fifty pages.

Besides, he does not see the chief value of his book in the treatise of the grammar, but rather in the selections of the Reader, the second part of the book. I confess, I do not quite see why. Very helpful for the beginner is the concise statement of the peculiarities of every author represented. The selections are illustrative of the three chief OHG. dialects: Franconian: Tatian, Würzburger Beichte, Isidor, Ludwigslied and Otfrid; Alemannian: Benediktinerregel, Murbacher Hymnen, Notker; Bavarian: Wessobrunner Gebet, Muspilli, Petruslied. An appendix brings the Hildebrandslied and a few Incantations.

The student welcomes a few notes on the texts, very concise but helpful as far as they go.

A glossary and two pages of the Hildebrandslied in facsimile conclude the book.

The book wants to be regarded as a primer, an introduction to the study of OHG., and it is well suited to that purpose. But, having expected a companion to Streitberg's Gothic, Michel's MHG., Holthausen's Old Saxon and Old Norse treatises in the same series, we are for the moment somewhat disappointed at the author's shifting of the emphasis from the grammar to the reader.

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